December 30, 2021 – January 5, 2022 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 52 www.associatednewspapers.net

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 136, No. 52

Sumpter Township Trustee Tim Rush has been appointed as interim deputy township supervisor by a 5-1 vote of the board members.

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THE CANTON EAGLE
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The Canton Township Municipal Services Department recently received full accreditation by the American Public Works Association (APWA) for the second time.

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THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
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THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
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Members of the Northville Township Police Department celebrated the recent food drive in the community when more than 300 pounds of food was donated.

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THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE
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The City of Plymouth Department of Municipal Services has a limited number of vouchers available for free hazardous waste disposal.

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THE ROMULUS ROMAN
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THE WAYNE EAGLE
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Wayne Fire Department Captain Andrew Stager marked his last day on the job last week, retiring after 25 years of service to the community.

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THE WESTLAND EAGLE
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Members of the Westland Police and Fire departments escorted children to Meijer to shop for family gifts as part of the Shop With A Hero program.

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Romulus superintendent sues school district

Members of the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education have been named in a lawsuit claiming discrimination and harassment by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Benjamin Edmondson. Three members of the school board are also facing a recall effort based on the suspension of Edmondson during an investigation into district business office financial practices.

In his lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Michigan, Edmondson claims he was placed on indefinite leave and replaced with a less-qualified person and has endured a "sustained campaign of harassment" since he was named to the position in August of 2020. During a Sept. 27 meeting of the board of education, the board members voted 4-3 to suspend Edmondson during the financial investigation.

> *Three members of the school board are also facing a recall effort based on the suspension of Edmondson.*

Since then, board meetings have been contentious with public comments from union representatives, teachers, parents and staff members supporting Edmondson and protesting the board action. Romulus resident Rita Hampton has been vigorously attempting to recall Board President Debi Pyles and Secretary Susan Evitts and Vice President Judy Kennard based on their actions in suspending Edmondson.

"I will not give up on this," Hampton said.

Edmondson, who abruptly left the September board meeting immediately following the vote to suspend him, claims that his suspension was based on his whistleblower concerns regarding a violation of the Open Meetings Act by the board and racial discrimination. He claims that the district has been plagued with problems before he was hired and that Pyles, Kennard, Evitts and Trustee Nichole German created problems by interfering with his ability to perform his job and improve the school district, "and causing multiple District administrators and employees to quit."

In his court filings, Edmondson noted that the district interim finance director, the executive director of K-12 instruction, the director of human resources and the payroll supervisor all resigned "due to problems with the four board members."

Dr. Benjamin Edmondson

See **Lawsuit,** page 2

'Fame'ous

3 named to Canton Hall of Fame, 3 others are honored

Six individuals were recently honored for their extraordinary contributions to the Canton Township community.

This year, the Canton Hall of Fame recognized three individuals based on their longtime and long-lasting contribution to the Canton community. The Community Achiever award recognizes those individuals who brought attention to Canton as a result of a special or outstanding achievement in the past year, and the Community Supporter Award recognizes those individuals or groups who continue to make a regular contribution to the community. This year, the inductees into the Hall of Fame are Dr. Syed Taj, Eva Davis and Tammy Haggerty. The three were recently honored at a private ceremony at the Summit on the Park Community Center.

Dr. Syed Taj served on the board of directors of the Canton Community Foundation for six years and currently serves on the board of directors for The Senior Alliance. He spent the last decade as Chairman of United Outstanding Physicians of Southeast Michigan. He is a lifetime member of The Michigan Association of Physicians of Indian Heritage and the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin. Taj was instrumental in bridging the friendship between the Canton Muslim Community of the Muslim Community of Western Suburbs, known as MCWS, and the various cultures in Canton and the surrounding region. He has funded scholarships for graduating Plymouth Canton Community Schools students going into the healthcare field.

Eva Davis, director of the Canton Public Library, is co-chair of the Canton Coalition for Inclusive Communities, and is also chair of the coalition new subcommittee, the Police Transparency and Guidance Subcommittee. She spearheaded the Canton Not in our Town program and led the charge for Canton to receive Gold Star status through this program. In addition, she volunteers and is active for many causes and organizations such as National Night Out, the Beloved Community, Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle, and the Canton Community Foundation.

Tammy Haggerty, owner of Jacob Matthews Jewelers, is an active member of Chicks 4 Charity, Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle, and the Canton and Plymouth chambers of commerce. Haggerty said she is extremely passionate about the Wounded Warriors Project. She is currently the local chapter president and has helped with various other veteran groups, where she has been able to raise more than $400,000 in the last few years. She is also a current board member for the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities and the Canton Cares Fund Advisory Committee. She holds many Days of Giving campaigns at her store, offering the proceeds of sales to various area non-profit organizations.

Others honored at the Salute to Canton ceremony included Jeff Poplin with a Community Achiever award for his work picking up trash throughout the community, Jennifer Brock with a Community Achiever award for her efforts with the "Feeding the Frontline" initiative during the early days of the pandemic, and Cam Nellett with a Community Supporter award for his many years of service to the Canton Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Newly inducted members of the Canton Hall of Fame are, from left, Eva Davis, Tammy Haggerty and Dr. Syed Taj. The three were honored during private ceremonies earlier this month celebrating their contributions to the community.

Drunk driving enforcement program now under way

During the New Year's holidays, law enforcement officials throughout Michigan will be participating in the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign. To protect lives, there will be increased patrols on the roads through Jan.1, 2022, with zero tolerance for those who drive impaired, according to a statement from the Michigan State Police.

Throughout 2020, there were 9,078 alcohol-involved crashes in Michigan with 326 alcohol-involved fatalities statewide, according to data provided by the state agency.

"Getting behind the wheel of a vehicle after you've been drinking or taken drugs endangers you, your passengers and everyone else on the road," said Michael L. Prince, Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) director. "Fatalities on our roadways are preventable, and drivers must remember that driving impaired by any substance is deadly, illegal and selfish behavior."

From 2016 to 2020, during the Christmas and New Year's holiday period, 84 people were killed in traffic crashes in Michigan, including 34 people who died in alcohol-involved crashes. Over the 2020 holiday period, 15 people died in crashes on Michigan roads.

According to the 2019 Michigan Annual Drunk Driving Audit by the Michigan State Police, 41.9 percent of all fatal crashes that occurred involved alcohol, drugs or both. The National Association of Drug Court Professionals recognizes December as one of the most dangerous months because of an increase in impaired driving.

The "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign is supported with federal traffic safety funds provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and coordinated by the OHSP.

Romulus

Taps

Veterans honored during national wreath program

Members of the Romulus VFW and Mayor Bob McCraight participate in the national Wreaths Across America program at Romulus cemetery.

Romulus Memorial Cemetery was one of more than 3,136 sites to honor veterans with memorial flags during the holiday season.

Members of the Romulus Veteran of Foreign Wars (VFW) 9568 marked the graves of fallen servicemen and women on Saturday, Dec. 18 as part of the national Wreaths Across America. Volunteers and spectators laid wreaths on the graves of fallen heroes.

National Wreaths Across America Day remembered national heroes as each veteran's name was said aloud and more than 525 truckloads of wreaths were delivered across the country. More than 2 million volunteers, a third of whom were children, helped placed more than 2.4 million veterans' wreaths on headstones across the country.

At Arlington National Cemetery specifically, the Wreaths Across America program saw 66 tractor trailers deliver 250,000 wreaths placed by nearly 38,000 volunteers. This was the 30th year that veterans' wreaths have been placed there, a tradition started by Maine wreathmaker Morrill Worcester as a gift of thanks. Morrill once again made the trek to Arlington this year to place wreaths as he has each December since 1992.

"When I brought down those 5,000 wreaths that first year, I just thought it was a way for me to say thank you, for what we have in this country," said Worcester, founder of Wreaths Across America. "I could have never imagined it would strike a chord like it has and make such an impact. Me and my family continued to be humbled by the support this program receives across the country."

Each live, balsam wreath was a gift of respect and appreciation, sponsored by an individual or organization and placed on a headstone by volunteers as a small gesture of gratitude for the freedoms Americans enjoy. For centuries, fresh evergreens have been used as a symbol of honor and have served as a living tribute renewed annually. Wreaths Across America believes the tradition represents a living memorial that honors veterans, active-duty military, and their families. When each wreath is placed the servicemember's name is said out loud, ensuring their memory lives on.

For more information, visit www.wreathsacrossamerica.org. Next year's National Wreaths Across America Day will take place on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022.

Lawsuit

FROM PAGE 1

Edmondson claims that during his 6-week absence recovering from heart surgery, the board members hired Dixon Public Consulting to investigate district finances. Shortly after his return to work, he claims, the board members voted to place a formal letter of reprimand into his employee file accusing him of failing to provide a key fob to Dixon employees or perform background checks on them and that he engaged in "defiant behavior" toward Pyles, among multiple other charges.

Edmondson alleges that Evitts, as the secretary of the board, did not provide minutes of several meetings he requested in an effort to "comply with all board motions" and has violated the Open Meetings Act by failing to provide the minutes to the public in a timely manner.

Pyles said Edmondson was placed on leave in an effort to enable an independent investigation into "the serious dysfunctional operation of the District's Business Office" and said those problems "were not being addressed by the superintendent."

She also claimed in a posting on the district website that an auditor found "14 serious Business/Financial Office problems" last year of which "12 of those 14 problems remain unresolved going into this year's audit." She said that Edmondson "did not provide any meaningful or concrete plan" to address the problems in the district's business and financial operations, and that he offered no plan to fill the interim finance director position.

Hampton, and many residents, have publicly criticized the board for hiring an interim superintendent at a higher daily rate of pay during what they describe as a "private meeting" before the vote to suspend Edmondson took place. Edmondson, in his lawsuit, claims that the interim superintendent is less qualified while being paid at a higher rate and suggests the pay rate is based on race. Edmonson is Black while the interim superintendent is White.

As a result of the school board members conduct, he has "suffered significant reputational harm within the close-knit community of Michigan educators," the suit alleges.

The statement from the district website claims that Edmondson "did not provide any meaningful or concrete plan" to address the problems in the district business and financial operations, and that he offered no plan to fill the interim finance director position.

Despite numerous efforts of three school board members to reinstate Edmondson, the proposal has met with adamant resistance from the four members who present a united front in refusing to consider a motion to reinstate him. A recent board meeting failed to proceed as members could not agree to accept the agenda as presented. Residents continue to vigorously protest and criticize board actions at meetings.

Edmondson is seeking compensatory and exemplary damages; attorney fees, costs and interest; and "other relief as this Court deems just and proper."

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INKSTER

Survivor

Pregnant woman lives through COVID to deliver healthy son

Nakia Hubbard Heard of Inkster lost a week of her life and nearly the life of her unborn son to COVID-19 this year.

Heard, 46, was 23 weeks pregnant when she tested positive at Beaumont Hospital, Wayne, with COVID-19 this past March and was immediately placed on a ventilator to facilitate her breathing. While Heard said she has no memory of the situation, the threat to her life and her baby's life, required an airlift transfer to Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak two days later.

Heard's doctors approached her husband, Janard, with a terrifying question: What should they do if it came down to saving his wife or their baby.

Heard said the scariest moment came when she woke up alone and restrained in a hospital bed, lights flashing, alarms sounding, and no idea how she got there.

"I lost a week of my life," she said. "To this day, I have no memory of it."

According to the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), only 31 percent of pregnant women are vaccinated against COVID-19. Currently, approximately 20 pregnant women are hospitalized at Beaumont Health with COVID-19

Back in March, Heard was newly eligible for the vaccine, but little data was available about safety in pregnant women. Michigan was in the midst of its third surge. Heard, an occupational therapist, believes she contracted the virus from her family. She was unvaccinated.

"When the vaccine first came out, there was no theoretical risk to pregnant women in any trimester," said Heard's doctor, Karoline Puder, M.D., a maternal fetal medicine specialist at Beaumont, Royal Oak. "But it's not surprising pregnant women were afraid to try something new."

Now, the scientific community has a full nine months plus of data and research to look to for validation.

"We have strong evidence that there is no tendency for this vaccine to cause reproductive harm," Dr. Puder said. Similarly, there is no evidence of fertility challenges, miscarriage, birth defects or growth abnormalities, she said. There is, however, strong evidence of increased risk to mother and baby from COVID-19, Puder said.

"It is critically important that every woman who is pregnant, breast feeding or considering pregnancy gets vaccinated," said Kurt Wharton, M.D., chief of Women's and Children's Clinical Care Programs for Beaumont Health. "Compared to non-pregnant women, pregnant women who contract COVID-19 are at high risk of requiring hospitalization, requiring admission to the ICU and requiring intubation."

Additional complications related to pregnancy include pre-eclampsia and premature birth, Puder added.

Heard was successfully removed from the ventilator in just five days although her airway was so damaged by the virus, "it felt like I was breathing through a straw," she said.

Doctors performed a tracheotomy to improve air Heard's air flow and during the next 12 weeks, she endured three surgeries to repair the damage. As she slowly regained her strength and staff taught her how to walk again, Heard said she tried to prepare herself mentally and physical for the upcoming delivery.

"I was afraid I wouldn't be able to push. I was also afraid I would go into respiratory failure," Heard said. "The trach was in place, but I thought I might have to go back on the vent, or die trying to deliver the baby."

When her son, Saint Dalton Rocco Heard, was born healthy three weeks early via urgent cesarian section on July 8, the entire family rejoiced.

"Relief, gratitude, joy; those words aren't big enough to describe how I felt that day and today," Heard said. "I still struggle with shortness of breath. I can't bathe my son in the tub because I can't get up from the floor without help. I can't carry him in his carrier longer than a couple minutes. I'm unable to walk long distances. I struggle with memory issues and body aches. My voice is weak and I can't carry on full conversations without getting winded. Even just reading a story to Saint tires my voice out, but I'm alive."

Jared Heard and Nakia Hubbard Heard celebrate the birth of son, Saint, threatened by COVID-19 during her pregnancy.

Instead of focusing on the challenges this holiday, Heard and her family are focusing on their blessings - and, of course, the miracles.

"I'm so grateful for the entire team at Beaumont, Wayne and Royal Oak," Heard said. "Especially the antepartum team, Dr. Puder and her staff, who were so meticulous and thoughtful with their care. They fought hard for Saint and for me. I want to thank Annie, an ICU nurse who took great care of me, even when I wasn't in the mood."

"I'd like to say thank you to the RN on antepartum who took me outside for the first time in more than a month, to let me feel the sunshine again. To Nicole, who helped me learn to swallow and eat again. To Tony, who taught me how to walk again. To the nurse who held my hand up until the very moment they started my first surgery, because I was so scared. To the doctor who brought my husband a birthday card and a small gift, because I was upset I wasn't home for his birthday. And honestly, there are so many others to thank.

"I'm alive. Saint is alive. We are safe and living our best possible life. And, that is everything."

Nakia Hubbard Heard spent a week on a ventilator during her nearly fatal battle with COVID-19 while pregnant.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – PUBLIC HEARING
January 19, 2022 – 7:00 PM

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a public hearing at the Northville Township Municipal Office Building, located at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville MI. The ZBA will consider a variance request to Chapter 170, Zoning Ordinance as follows:

- 16617 Canvas Creel Dr. - Article 31.2 (A), Fences
- 20388 Woodhill Dr. - Article 18.1, Rear Yard Setback
- 18285 Sheldon Rd. - Article 22.5 (C), Nonconforming Structures

The public is invited to attend this public hearing and express their comments or ask questions. Plans are available for viewing at the Township between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Written comments will be received by the ZBA at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168 no later than 12:00 PM on the day of the above meeting.

Paul Slatin, Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals
Publish: December 30, 2021

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CITY OF ROMULUS INVITATION TO BID
ITB 21/22-11 Four Year Contract for Water Billing,
Assessment Notices & Tax Statements - Preparation, Printing & Mailing Services
ITB 21/22-12 Romulus Police Department Patrol Rifles

The City of Romulus, Michigan is seeking bids from qualified companies for the above items. .

(1) Qualified individuals and firms wishing to submit a bid must use the forms provided by the City. Official bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the MITN Purchasing Group page of BidNet Direct (http://www.mitn.info/). Bids may be rejected unless made on the forms included with the bidding documents. Copies of documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies.

(2) Clarifications, modifications, or amendments may be made to this solicitation at the discretion of the City. Any and all addenda issued by the City will be posted on the MITN Purchasing Group page of BidNet Direct. All interested parties are instructed to view the MITN website regularly for any issued addenda. It is the responsibility of the bidder to obtain all issued addenda and acknowledge receipt of said addenda by including a printed copy of each addendum as part of the required documents for this solicitation and to list the addendum and sign and date the "Acknowledgment of Receipt Addenda Form: supplied in the bid documents.

(3) A total of three copies (one marked "Original" and two marked "Copy") of the bid must be submitted together in one sealed package/envelope and returned to the ***City Clerk's Office*** no later than 2:00 P.M., Thursday, 1/20/2022. Bids should be addressed using the bid package label provided in the solicitation documents or submitted electronically on the MITN Purchasing Group page of BidNet Direct.

(4) At approximately 3:00 p.m., local time 1/20/2022, all timely received bids will be publically opened and read.

(5) The City reserves the right to postpone the opening without notification and also reserves the right to reject all bids and to waive any minor informality or irregularity in bids received and to award the bid in whole or in part. Ultimately, a contract may be awarded to the lowest most responsive and responsible company, as determined in the sole discretion of the City of Romulus or otherwise in a manner deemed by the City to be in its own best interest.

(6) For additional information contact Gary Harris, City of Romulus, Purchasing Director by calling (734) 955-4568 or by emailing Purchasing@romulusgov.com.

(7) The City of Romulus strictly prohibits the reproduction or publishing of any published document or solicitation without the express written consent of the City of Romulus. Unauthorized posting of any notice of these documents or reference to said documents or solicitations is strictly prohibited.

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Northville - Westland

Concerned kids

Members of the Northville Township Police Department celebrated the success of the recent food drive in the community. Officers reported that more than 300 pounds of food and goods were donated and transported to Northville Civic Concern for distribution in the community. Police said the students from Ridge Wood Elementary, Silver Springs Elementary and Winchester Elementary schools were enthusiastic participants in the effort and helped make the drive a success. "Hunger impacts every community, including ours, so thank you to all involved for your generosity," officers said.

Shop With A Hero

Members of the Westland Police Department and Westland Fire Department in conjunction with Wayne-Westland Community Schools Bright Futures program selected children to each be able to spend $110 at the Meijer of Westland during the annual Shop with a Hero effort. Each child was paired with our own police and fire heroes to go shop for themselves and their family to make sure they have an extra special holiday season this year. The effort, funded by donations, is an annual event in the "Compassionate City."

Garden Club meetings are set

Members of the Country Garden Club of Northville will resume meetings at 11 a.m. Jan. 5 at Plymouth First United Methodist Church. Speakers begin at 11:30 a.m. following a short business meeting and refreshments.

The January speaker will be Laurie Medrea who will discuss Winter in the Garden. The next meeting is set for Jan. 5 with speaker Celia Ryker whose topic will be Trail Stories of a Hiking Gardener. The March 2 speaker will be Carolyn Paten who will discuss Dow Gardens.

The church is located at 45201 N. Territorial Road in Plymouth.

The Country Garden Club of Northville is a non-profit organization founded in 1977 and members are dedicated to community improvement through service, conservation and education. For more information, contact the group at cgcnorthville@gmail.com.

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CANTON - WAYNE

Canton Municipal Services receives re-accreditation

The Canton Township Municipal Services Department recently received full accreditation by the American Public Works Association (APWA) for the second time. This accreditation formally verifies and recognizes that the agency is in full compliance with the recommended management practices set forth in the APWA Public Works Management Practices Manual.

The purpose of accreditation is to promote excellence in the operation and management of a public works agency, its programs and employees, according to a spokesman. Accreditation is designed to assist the agency in continuous improvement of operations and management, and in providing a valid and objective evaluation of agency programs as a service to the public and the profession.

Open to all governmental agencies with responsibilities for public works functions, initial accreditation from APWA is for a four-year period, during which time semi-annual updates are required to demonstrate continuing compliance. Canton Municipal Services received initial accreditation in 2017 and applied for reaccreditation in 2021. The re-accreditation process builds on the original accreditation, encouraging continuous improvement and compliance with newly identified practices.

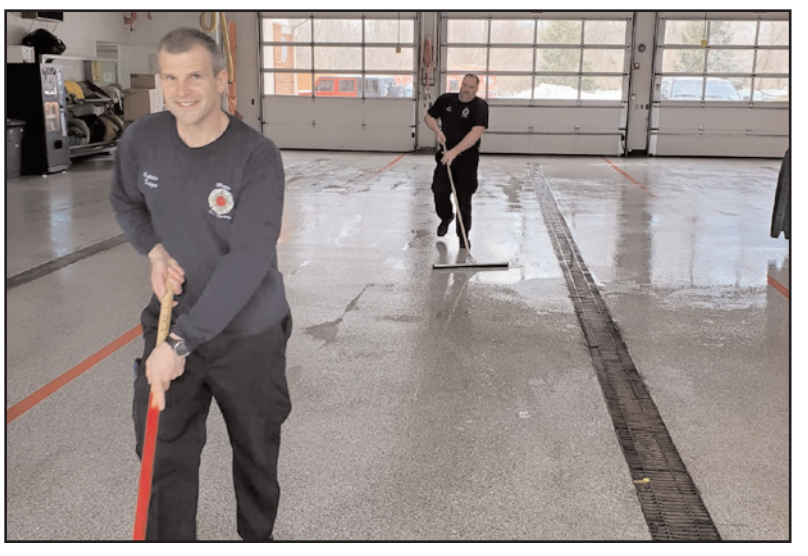
> *We are extremely proud to receive this honor.*

"The continuation of accreditation for the township of Canton Municipal Services Department indicates staff from have met all applicable accreditation documentation and practices over time," noted a statement from township department Director Jade Smith "The awarding of the APWA Accreditation reflects the dedication from all the staff towards continues improvement and excellence. We are extremely proud to receive this honor. The heroes of this prestigious APWA award are the public works staff whose mission is to provide services and programs that contribute to making Canton a great place to live and work.".

For more information about Canton municipal services, call (734) 394-5160.

25 and out

Wayne Fire Department Captain Andrew Stager marked his last day on the job last week, retiring after 25 years of service to the community. In a prepared statement, department officials praised Stager's work ethic and performance. "We are honored to have had you a part of our department. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication. We wish you the best of luck," his coworkers and department leaders said.



Local students awarded nominations to military colleges

Congresswoman Haley Stevens has nominated 22 Michigan students for placement at the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY, the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO and the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY. Nominations included students from Canton, Northville and Plymouth.

"I am excited to nominate these 22 incredible students for appointment to our nation's service academies," said Congresswoman Stevens. "Serving our country is the most honorable act that Americans can commit; I am so inspired by these students' desire to serve, and I am so proud to be their representative in Congress. I'm rooting for them throughout the rest of the application process!"

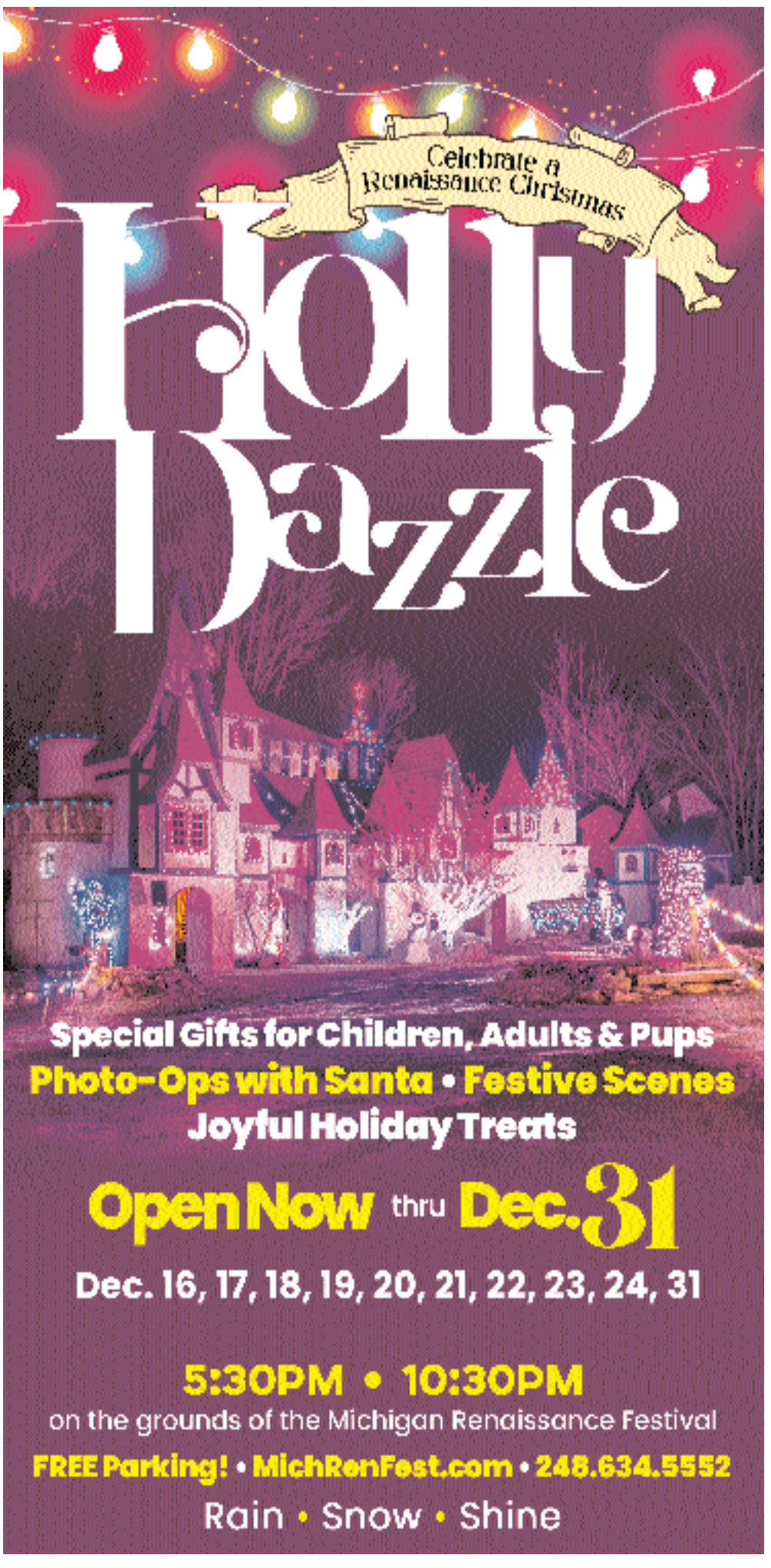
Students seeking an appointment to a service academy must first obtain a nomination from a nominating source - most commonly through their Members of Congress. Now that these students have been nominated, they must await acceptance of admission by the academy to which they have applied.

Local students nominated to the United States Air Force Academy were: William Cameron, Northville, Northville High School; Kaia Counts, Northville, Northville High School; Thomas Leeds, Northville, University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Abigail Tracey, Northville, Livingston Classical Academy.

Joshua Brauchler from Canton Township who attends Salem High Schools was nominated for the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

Students nominated to the United States Military Academy included Rahul Barpanda, Northville, Detroit Country Day High School; William Cameron, Northville, Northville High School; Kaia Counts, Northville, Northville High School; Haesol Park, Northville, Northville High School; Connor Sugrue, Canton, Salem High School and Abigail Tracey, Northville, Livingston Classical Academy.

Nominated for the United States Naval Academy were Ziming Huang, Plymouth, Salem High School; Thomas Leeds, Northville, University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Annika Zaar, Northville, Northville High School.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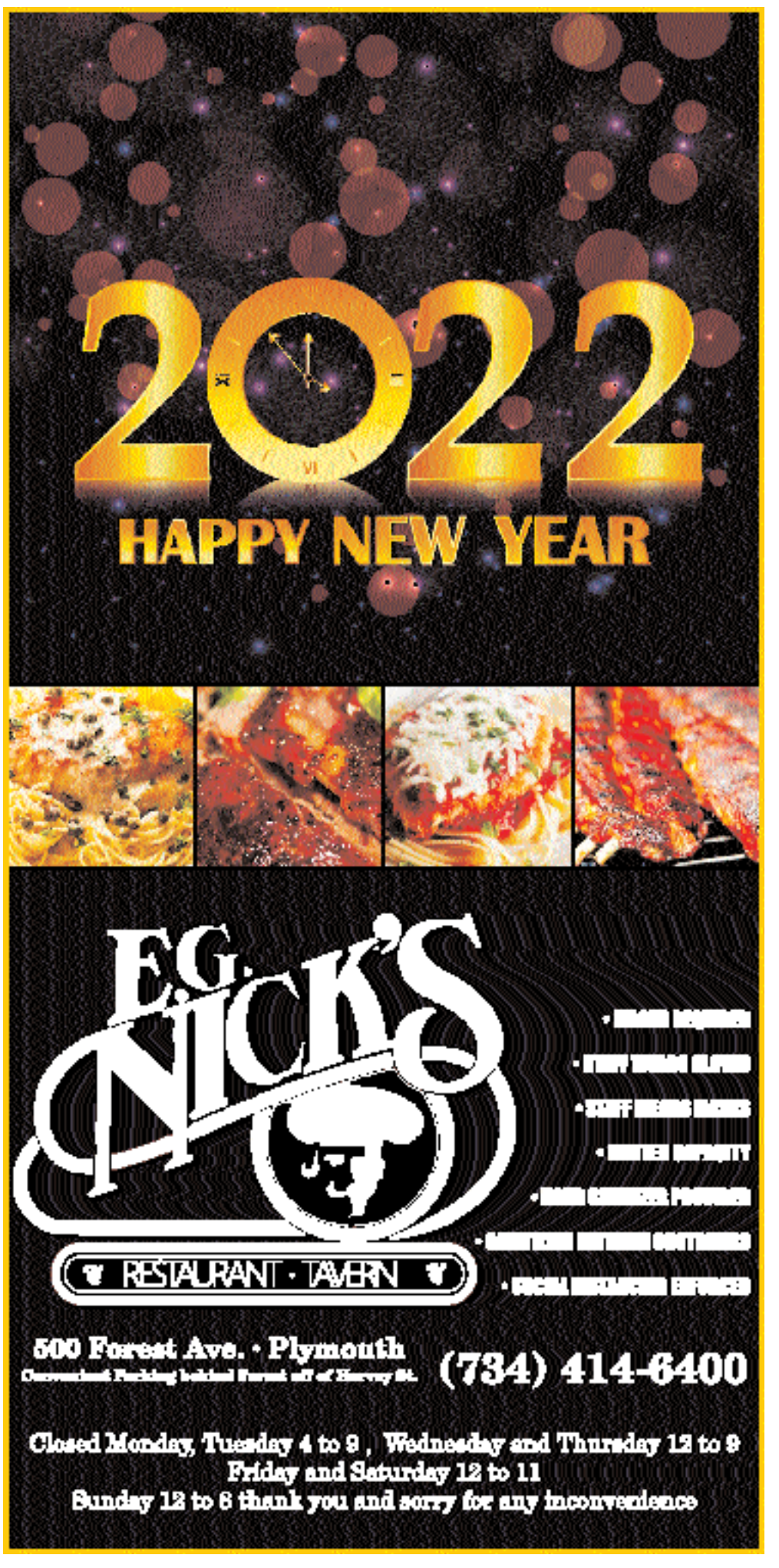
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Plymouth - Sumpter

Rush is named as Sumpter deputy supervisor

Sumpter Township Trustee Tim Rush has been appointed as interim deputy township supervisor by a 5-1 vote of the board members.

Casting the only no vote on the proposal by Supervisor Tim Bowman was Trustee Peggy Morgan. Rush abstained from the vote approving the new position which will pay $8,804 annually. His appointment will continue only until April 30, 2022. In response to the proposal by Bowman during the workshop preceding the Dec. 14 electronic meeting, Morgan burst out in raucous laughter and briefly left the meeting to compose herself.

Upon her return, Rush criticized her behavior noting, "The man (Bowman) is asking for help. This is temporary. For you to disgrace the board the way you just did is despicable," he said.

"I can't help it. I found it funny," Morgan responded prompting Bowman to comment, "I find you funny a lot of times, Peggy, but I try to respect you."

Township attorney Rob Young explained that in a township or municipality of fewer than 40,000 residents, appointing a trustee to another position was within the board members' authority according to the law. He did suggest that if Rush were to be assigned other duties, such as the oversight of the water and building departments, the board members should articulate that authority in the motion naming him to the petition to prevent any question arising at a later date.

> "I'm going to do whatever the staff needs me to do. I know how to organize. \

Morgan repeatedly asked how much Rush would be paid and was informed of the $8,804 amount but continued to voice objections to the request. She said that staff members in the supervisor's office could handle the business and that like other employees in the township they have "stepped up" in the absence of a deputy supervisor and financial director.

Trustee Don LaPorte attempted to explain that Bowman needed help in the office. "He needs help. Budget and tax season is nearly here. When somebody asks for help, you give it," he said.

Morgan refuted LaPorte's comments and said that there are "firms out there who can help and asserted that a staff member "takes care of all the documents." She then questioned Bowman's capabilities as supervisor.

"I don't know where the supervisor is in all this. Do you have any duties?" she asked. "If we give Tim Rush more duties and more pay, what do you handle then?"

> "This is temporary. For you to disgrace the board the way you just did is despicable,

Trustee Matt Oddy reminded Morgan that she was very supportive when Ken Bednark was named deputy supervisor by Bowman. "You had no problem when Bednark was named. You even wanted him to be a full-time deputy supervisor," he said.

Rush made no comment during the discussion but in a later interview, following the vote, he said that the township employees and officials should be commended for their willingness to help while a full-time deputy supervisor or township manager was hired.

"People have stepped up," he said. "It is phenomenal." He said that he spent time at township hall during the week getting informed about the needs of the staff and getting organized. "I think I have hit the ground running," he said. "I'm going to do whatever the staff needs me to do. I know how to organize."

Rush, who has lived in the township for 32 years, has been a professional security consultant for 35 years. He is in his third term on the board of trustees and said that he wants only the best for the community. "I plan to retire here. I'm not going anywhere," he said.

"The clerk's office, Police Chief Luke, all of the township employees have really stepped up to help," he said. "I'm just trying to do the same."

Tim Rush

Supervisor thanks area donors

Sumpter Township Supervisor Tim Bowman recently expressed his "heartfelt gratitude to all our sponsors that donated this year to the township, enabling us to obtain gift cards for the children in our community, in lieu of our annual Children's Christmas party."

Bowman said it was particularly overwhelming that during these turbulent times the township effort continues to receive the support from loyal patrons. He said the generosity of the donors allowed the township to continue to provide a holiday treat for Sumpter children.

Among the benefactors we wish to acknowledge, Bowman said, are: Belleville Central Business Community; Benito's Five Star Pizza; Carlisle Wortman Associates, Inc.; CRG Electric; Davenport Brothers Construction Co.; Fox Auto Parts, Inc.; Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue; Higgerson & Neal Funeral Home; Martin & Son; Post, Smythe, Lutz & Ziel of Wayne; Red Rooster Lounge & Pizzeria; Sumpter Township Board of Trustees; The Bake Shoppe; Utilities Management Service; WCA Assessing; Wolverine Power Cooperative and Zywicki Greenhouses.

"A special thanks to Sumpter Township Fire Department (Chief Rick Brown, Deputy Chief John Krushlin and Battalion Chief Walt Thompson," Bowman concluded.

Disposal vouchers are available

The City of Plymouth Department of Municipal Services has a limited number of vouchers for free hazardous waste disposal at the Environmental Recycling Group located at 13040 Merriman Road in Livonia.

Wayne County Household Hazardous Waste Collections accept: household paints, pharmaceutical waste, fertilizer, lawn chemicals, motor oil, gasoline, batteries, fire extinguishers, mercury thermometers, computer CPUs, monitors, televisions, cell phones and more.

City of Plymouth residents can obtain a voucher at the Municipal Services yard at 1231 Goldsmith or call (734) 453-7737 for more information.